

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 EA-09 OPR-02 DPW-01 /085 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8979

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 3555

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, VN, US

SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 1, 1976 BY VIETNAM'S PERMANENT
OBSERVER TO THE UN, AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI - QUESTIONS
AND ANSWERS

REF: USUN 3540

1. THERE FOLLOWS TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
AT AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI' S SEPTEMBER 1, 1976 PRESS CON-
FERENCE AT UN HEADQUARTERS. PRESS OFFICER AT VIETNAM'S
PERMANENT OBSERVER OFFICE, PHAM NGAC, TRANSLATED QUES-
TIONS FROM ENGLISH INTO VIETNAMESE AND DINH'S REPLIES
FROM VIETNAMESE INTO ENGLISH:

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT HAS CHANGED ITS MIND AND WILL NOT VETO YOUR APPLICATION
IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL?

ANSWER: UNTIL TODAY WE SEE NO OBVIOUS REACTION OF THE US
GOVERNMENT ON THE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN THIS YEAR.

QUESTION: DO YOU SEE ANY CHANCE OF TALKING TO MR.
KISSINGER WHILE HE IS IN NEW YORK ABOUT THIS MATTER?

ANSWER: SO FAR, WE HAVE NO INTENTION.

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QUESTION: HAVE THERE BEEN ANY TALKS EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES?

ANSWER: THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM HAS REPEATEDLY DECLARED THAT IT IS READY TO OPEN DISCUSSION WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT SO FAR THERE IS NO REAL RESPONSE FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

QUESTION: HOW SOON DO YOU EXPECT THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER?

ANSWER: TO MY KNOWLEDGE THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL HAVE A DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF THE APPLICATION OF VIETNAM ON THE 8TH OR 9TH OF THIS MONTH.

QUESTION: IF IN FACT THIS APPLICATION IS VETOED INSIDE THE SECURITY COUNCIL DO YOU INTEND TO TAKE YOUR CASE INSIDE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

ANSWER: YES, IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO VETO THE APPLICATION OF VIETNAM IN THE SC, CERTAINLY THE GA WILL DISCUSS THIS REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU ANY INDICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES AS TO WHAT THEIR OBSTACLES, MENTAL OBSTACLES, THEY HAVE THAT STANDS IN THE WAY OF RESUMPTION OF TALKS ON THE NORMALIZATION AND MY SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION IS WHETHER YOU THINK THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN WOULD FURTHER THE PROGRESS OF NORMALIZATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES? WILL IT MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE TWO SIDES TO EVEN TALK HERE AS MEMBERS OF THE UN?

ANSWER: WE THINK THAT THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD CHANGE ITS PRESENT POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM AND CERTAINLY IT WILL FACILITATE - PAVE THE WAY FOR THE TALKS BETWEEN TWO SIDES ON THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE US GOVERNMENT REALLY DESIRES TO HAVE RELATIONS OF

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COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM AND IF IT REALLY HAS SUCH A DESIRE WE THINK THAT THERE IS NO DIFFICULTY FOR SUCH A CHANGE IN ITS POLICY. I WOULD LIKE TO REPLY TO THE SECOND PART OF YOUR QUESTION. IF NOW THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DECIDES NOT TO OPPOSE THE ADMISSION OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL FACILITATE FOR THE TALKS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

QUESTION: LAST YEAR WHEN THE UNITED STATES VETOED THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OF THE TWO VIETNAMS ITS EXPLANATION WAS THAT IT DID SO BECAUSE THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAD REFUSED TO TAKE UP THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OF SOUTH KOREA. SINCE SOUTH KOREA IS NOT PRESSING ITS APPLICATION THIS YEAR, DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING THE RECOMMENDATION AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE CHANCE THAT UNITED STATES WILL NOT VETO YOUR APPLICATION ARE BETTER?

ANSWER: WE CONCEDED THAT THE VETO CAST LAST YEAR BY THE UNITED STATES AGAINST THE ADMISSION OF VIETNAM IN THE UNITED NATIONS IS AN ABSURD PRETEXT. AND IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO CONTINUE THE SAME POLICY TO BLOCK THE ADMISSION OF VIETNAM IN THE UNITED NATIONS WE DO NOT KNOW YET WHAT PRETEXT THEY WILL RESORT TO.

QUESTION: IN OTHER WORDS, THE AMBASSADOR IS SAYING THAT THE CITATION OF KOREA CASE WAS A PRETEXT. IS THAT WHAT THE AMBASSADOR IS SAYING?

ANSWER: WE BELIEVE THAT VIETNAM IS A COUNTRY FULLY QUALIFIED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS ESTABLISHED BY THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF. -- SO THAT'S WHY ANY REASON, ANY PRETEXT, PUT FORTH BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO OPPOSE THE ADMISSION OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS IS VERY MUCH AGAINST THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF.

QUESTION: YOU MENTIONED PARIS AGREEMENT EARLIER ON. THE UNITED STATES CLAIMS THAT YOU HAVE NOT LIVED UP TO THOSE PARIS AGREEMENTS. IS THAT A TRUE STATEMENT ON THEIR PART OR HAVE YOU LIVED UP TO THEM?

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ANSWER: EVERYONE WHO FAVORS FREEDOM AND JUSTICE RECOGNIZED THAT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT IS A GREAT VICTORY FOR THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. IT WAS OUR SIDE WHICH PUT FORTH THE DRAFT OF THE AGREEMENT - AND WE FOUGHT VERY HARD TO HAVE THAT AGREEMENT - OUR DRAFT - SIGNED BY ALL PARTIES. AND THAT IS WHY AFTER THE SIGNING OF THAT AGREEMENT, IT WAS ON OUR SIDE - WE FOUGHT VERY HARD FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT AGREEMENT ... AND IT WAS THE THIEU REGIME, SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES, WHICH OPPOSED THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ITSELF, AND AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT THIS THE SAME REGIME OPPOSED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. THAT IS WHY OUR PEOPLE HAVE TO CONTINUE OUR STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE OUR COUNTRY TO HAVE THE FULL INDEPENDENCE OF OUR HOME LAND. SO THAT IS

WHY WE HAVE FULL FEELING THAT THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE
AND ARTICLE THAT MEANS ARTICLE ONE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT
GOT THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES' RESPECT, THE INDEPENDENCE,
SOVEREIGNTY, UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF VIETNAM.

QUESTION: HAS THE UNITED STATES INDICATED TO YOU DIRECT-
LY OR INDIRECTLY IS THERE ANY CONDITION OR ACTION ON YOUR
PART WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO SUPPORT
YOUR APPLICATION?

ANSWER: SO FAR WE SEE NO OFFICIAL INDICATION ON THE US
SIDE ON THIS QUESTION.

QUESTION: IF YOU WERE TO RESPOND MORE FULLY TO AMERICAN
REQUESTS FOR MISSING-IN-ACTION LISTS DO YOU THINK THAT MIGHT
HELP YOU FACILITATE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND PERHAPS
YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS?

ANSWER: CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF MIA'S IN VIETNAM, MY
GOVERNMENT HAVE ALWAYS PURSUED A HUMANITARIAN POLICY AND
CONCRETE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY MY GOVERNMENT IN THIS
REGARD. WE HAVE SUPPLIED THE US SIDE LIST OF THE MIA'S WE HAVE.

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WE HAVE RETURNED TO THE U.S. SIDE THE REMAINS OF THE
AMERICANS WHO DIED IN VIETNAM. WE HAVE SET UP A
SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO FIND OUT THE INFORMATION ON THE
AMERICANS MIA'S IN VIETNAM AND THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE

CONTINUES. WE MUST SAY THAT WE HAVE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE ANXIETIES OF THE AMERICAN FAMILIES AND THE AMERICAN POLITICIANS ON THIS QUESTION OF MIA'S. BUT WE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN POLITICIANS ALSO HAVE THE SAME UNDERSTANDING FOR THE VIETNAMESE MIA'S, THOUSANDS OF CASES OF THE PEOPLE MISSING DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. AND A FULL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW FACING ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY THE BRUTAL WAR IN VIETNAM. AND IN ADDITION IN ORDER TO HAVE A BETTER SOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION OF MIA'S WE NEED THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND VIETNAM- BUT UNTIL NOW THE US GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO CHANGE ITS HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARD VIETNAM. AND WE CONSIDER THAT HOSTILITY TOWARD VIETNAM CONSTITUTES AN OBSTACLE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE REMAINING QUESTIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, WHICH BOTH SIDES HAVE MUTUAL CONCERN INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF MIA'S. TALKING ABOUT THE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT, ONE SHOULD MENTION ALSO ARTICLE 21 IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES PLEDGED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE HEALING OF THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM. CONCERNING THIS MATTER, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNTIL NOW SHOW A COMPLETELY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE.

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PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG OF OUR COUNTRY STATED RECENTLY IN COLOMBO AT THE NONALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE - HE SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF ARTICLE 21 IS A QUESTION OF A CONSCIENCE, A QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND A QUESTION OF HONOR WHICH THE U.S. CANNOT ELUDE.

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR COUNTRY'S VIEW OF THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SOUTH KOREA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS?

ANSWER: REGARDING THE QUESTION OF KOREA, WE FULLY SUPPORT THE POSITION OF THE PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THIS ISN'T SO IN CONFORMITY WITH THE STATEMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE DECLARATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1972 REGARDING THE QUESTION OF KOREA.

QUESTION: IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THERE HAS NEVER REALLY BEEN A CLARIFICATION ON WHAT EXACTLY YOU MEAN BY HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND CONTRIBUTING TO POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION. NOW THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT I DO NOT BELIEVE HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT YOU ARE REQUESTING ROUGHLY 3 1/2 BILLION DOLLARS -- IS THIS A STRICT FIGURE, OR ARE YOU WILLING ALSO TO ACCEPT, SAY A DIFFERENT SORT OF PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT MAYBE CULTURAL, TRADE RELATIONS AS PART OF THIS RECONSTRUCTION AND HEALING OF THE WOUNDS OF WAR?

ANSWER: WE THINK THAT BASICALLY THE UNITED STATES

SHOULD CARRY OUT ITS PLEDGE AS IT MADE IN ARTICLE 21 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. IN ORDER TO CARRY IT OUT WE THINK THAT INDEED THE TWO SIDES WILL MEET AND DISCUSS ON THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN, AND OUR SIDE IS READY TO DISCUSS WITH THE UNITED STATES SIDE TO CARRY OUT THIS ARTICLE.

QUESTION: SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THE UN MISSION TO VIETNAM RECOMMENDED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL LARGE PROGRAMS OF CONSTRUCTION AID INCLUDING RECONSTRUCTION OF RAILROADS AND FINANCING MASSIVE RESETTLEMENT OF POPULATION IN RURAL AREAS. NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THIS RECOMMENDATION. DO YOU FEEL THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD MOVE TO APPEAL FOR AND LAUNCH SUCH A RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM?

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ANSWER: WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SENDING A MISSION HEADED BY MR. UMBRIGHT TO VIETNAM TO HAVE AN ON THE SPOT STUDY OF THE SITUATION AND WORK OUT A PROGRAM ASSISTING VIETNAM IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRY. I MUST SAY THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO VIETNAM, MR. UMBRIGHT AND HIS DELEGATION HAD A VERY GOOD COOPERATION FROM OUR SIDE. AND AFTER THAT MR. UMBRIGHT PREPARED A REPORT AFTER HIS VISIT, AND WE CONSIDER THAT IT IS A GOOD REPORT. AND, AS I KNOW, MR. UMBRIGHT IS NOW MAKING CONTINUED EFFORTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO CARRY OUT THIS PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM. AS FAR AS WE KNOW THE CONTACTS MADE BY MR. UMBRIGHT WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THIS EFFORT OF ASSISTANCE IN VIETNAM IS QUITE ENCOURAGING.

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